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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/090,591	02/27/2002	Tetsuo Okamoto	JCLA8596	4998

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J C PATENTS, INC.
4 VENTURE, SUITE 250
IRVINE, CA 92618

EXAMINER

NANO, SARGON N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

DATE MAILED: 04/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/090,591	Applicant(s) OKAMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner Sargon N. Nano	Art Unit 2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4 - 7, 9 - 34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 1,2,4 - 7, 9 - 34 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

1. This action is responsive to RCE filed on January 31, 2006. Claims 1, 6, 25, 30, 31 and 33 were amended, claims 1 – 2, 4- 7, 9 – 34 are pending examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 6 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear where the data is being stored, who is transmitting the access information and where is it being transmitted to. Clarification is required.

Claims 1, 6, 19, 25, 30, 31, 32 and 33 recite the limitation "the received digital data " and "the stored digital data". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim .Clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

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only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 – 2, 4- 7, 9 – 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takano, U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2001/0041072.

As to claims 1, Takano teaches an information storage method and apparatus respectively, comprising:

receiving digital data input from an input device through a communication line (see paragraph 0012 , Takano discloses apparatus for receiving image input) ; storing the received digital data(see paragraph 0012 , Takano discloses the storing of digital image data); and transmitting access information for accessing a storage location of the stored digital data itself and a print instruction for printing the access information to an external device having a print function through the communication line wherein the access information includes a password for authentication process in order to access the stored digital data (see paragraph 0012 , Takano discloses means for issuing an ID for retrieval of digital image data and print after receiving information) .

As to claim 2, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 1, wherein the access information shows the storage location where the digital data is stored (see paragraph 0013 , Takano discloses the storing of image data in an external memory medium).

As to claim 4, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 1, wherein the access information is included in each of a plurality of images on a single

page, the plurality of images being defined by image data to be transmitted (see paragraph 0067, Takano discloses a list of images are outputted on an order form).

As to claim 5, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 1, wherein the access information is included in each of a plurality of images on a respective plurality of pages, the plurality of images being defined by image data to be transmitted (see paragraph 0065, Takano discloses means for identifying a group of digital image data).

As to claim 6, Takano teaches an information storage method, comprising:
receiving digital data input from an input device through a communication line;
storing the received digital data(see paragraph 0012 , Takano discloses apparatus for receiving image input); and

transmitting access information for accessing a storage location of the stored digital data itself and distinguishing information for identifying the digital data to an external device having a print function through the communication line, wherein the access information includes a password for authentication process in order to access the stored digital data (see paragraph 0012 , Takano discloses means for issuing an ID for retrieval of digital image data and print after receiving information).

As to claim 7, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 6, wherein the access information shows the storage location where the digital data is stored (see paragraph 0013, Takano discloses the storing of image data in an external memory medium).

As to claim 9, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 6, wherein the access information is included in each of a plurality of images on a single page, the plurality of images being defined by image data to be transmitted (see paragraph 0067, Takano discloses a list of images are outputted on an order form).

As to claim 10, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 6, wherein the access information is included in each of a plurality of images on a respective plurality of pages, the plurality of images being defined by image data to be transmitted (see paragraph 0065, Takano discloses means for identifying a group of digital image data).

As to claim 11, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 6, wherein the access information and the distinguishing information are included in a composed image being defined by image data to be transmitted (see paragraph 0152 , Takano discloses the size of the image frames to be printed out).

As to claim 12, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 6, wherein the digital data is image data and the distinguishing information is the image data having been edited (see paragraph 0152 , Takano discloses the size of the image frames to be printed out).

As to claim 13, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 12, wherein the image data defines a plurality of images on a respective plurality of pages, and an edit of the image data is to make the image data define the plurality of images on a single page (see paragraph 0083).

As to claim 14, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 12, wherein the edit of the image data is to include a same image in each of a plurality of locations (see paragraph 0083).

As to claim 15, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 14, wherein the same image is included in each of a plurality of locations on a single page (see paragraph 0083).

As to claim 16, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 14, wherein the same image is included in each of a plurality of locations on a respective plurality of pages (see paragraph 0083).

As to claim 17, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 6, wherein the digital data is image data defining a plurality of images on a respective plurality of pages, and the distinguishing information is an image on a predetermined page among the plurality of images on the plurality of pages defined by the image data (see paragraph 0083).

As to claim 18, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 17, wherein the image on the predetermined page is an image on the first or on the last page among the images on the plurality of pages defined by the image data (see paragraph 0083).

As to claim 19, Takano teaches an information storage method, comprising:
receiving digital data input from an input device through a communication line
(see paragraph 0012, Takano discloses apparatus for receiving image input);

storing the received digital data; and transmitting access information for accessing a storage location of the stored digital data and advertising information to an external device having a print function through the communication line (see paragraph 0012 , Takano discloses means for issuing an ID for retrieval of digital image data and print after receiving information).

As to claim 20 Takano teaches, the information storage method of claim 19, wherein the access information shows the storage location where the digital data is stored (see paragraph 0083 and 0152).

As to claim 21, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 19, wherein the access information comprises identification information for permitting reference to the stored digital data (see paragraph 0083 and 0152).

As to claim 22, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 19, wherein the access information is included in each of a plurality of images on a single page, the plurality of images being defined by image data to be transmitted (see paragraph 0083 and 0152).

As to claim 23, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 19, wherein the access information is included in each of a plurality of images on a respective plurality of pages, the plurality of images being defined by image data to be transmitted (see paragraph 0083 and 0152).

As to claim 24, Takano teaches the information storage method of claim 19, wherein charge information of an expense concerning the information storage can be changed (see paragraph 0083 and 0152).

As to claim 25, Takano teaches a digital data processing method, comprising inputting digital data; transmitting the input digital data to an external device that stores the digital data through a communication line wherein the access information includes a password for authentication process in order to access the stored digital data, (see paragraph 0012 , Takano discloses apparatus for receiving image input); and

printing access information for accessing a storage location of the digital data itself on a print medium, the digital data being transmitted to and stored in the external device (see paragraph 0012 , Takano discloses means for issuing an ID for retrieval of digital image data and print after receiving information).

As to claim 26, Takano teaches the digital data processing method of claim 25, wherein the access information is received from the external device (see paragraph 0083 and 0152).

As to claim 27, Takano teaches the digital data processing method of claim 26, wherein the input digital data is image data and at least one portion of the digital data is stored, wherein the stored digital data and the received access information are combined and printed on the print medium (see paragraph 0083 and 0152).

As to claim 28, Takano teaches the digital data processing method of claim 26, wherein the input digital data is image data, and the input image data is edited and then printed on the print medium (see paragraph 0083 and 0152).

As to claim 29, Takano teaches the digital data processing method of claim 25, wherein the received access information and advertising information that is stored in

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advance or input from the external device are printed on the print medium (see paragraph 0083 and 0152).

As to claim 30, Takano teaches an information storage apparatus , comprising :
a receiving device that receives digital data input from an input device through a communication lines;

a storing device that stores the received digital data; and a transmitting device that transmits access information for accessing a storage location of the stored digital data itself and distinguishing information for identifying the digital data to an external device having a print function through the communication line, wherein the access information includes a password for authentication process in order to access the stored digital data (see paragraph 0012 , Takano discloses means for issuing an ID for retrieval of digital image data and print after receiving information).

As to claim 31, Takano teaches an information storage apparatus, comprising: a receiving device that receives digital data input from an input device through a communication line (see paragraph 0012 , Takano discloses apparatus for receiving image input);

a storing device that stores the received digital data; and a transmitting device that transmits access information for accessing a storage location of the stored digital data and distinguishing information for identifying the digital data to an external device having a print function through the communication line, wherein the access information includes a password for authentication process in order to access the stored digital data

(see paragraph 0012 , Takano discloses means for issuing an ID for retrieval of digital image data and print after receiving information).

As to claim 32, Takano teaches an information storage apparatus, comprising: a receiving device that receives digital data input from an input device through a communication line (see paragraph 0012 , Takano discloses apparatus for receiving image input);

a storing device that stores the received digital data; and

a transmitting device that transmits access information for accessing a storage location of the stored digital data and advertising information to an external device having a print function through the communication line (see paragraph 0012 , Takano discloses means for issuing an ID for retrieval of digital image data and print after receiving information).

As to claim 33, Takano teaches a digital data processing apparatus, comprising an inputting device that inputs digital data;

a transmitting device that transmits the digital data that is input from the inputting device to an external device that stores the digital data through a communication line; and

a printing device that prints access for accessing a storage location of the digital data itself on a print medium, the digital data being transmitted to and stored in the external device (see paragraph 0012 , Takano discloses means for issuing an ID for retrieval of digital image data and print after receiving information).

As to claim 34, Takano teaches the digital data processing apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a receiving device that receives the access information from the external device (see paragraph 0083 and 0152).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In the remarks, applicants argue in substance that A) a password must contain characters from at least 3 of the following 4 classes:

1. English Upper case letters
2. English Lower case letters
3. westernized Arabic numerals
4. Non alphanumeric or "special characters and Takano's ID is not a password.

B) Takano does not teach or suggest a password for an authentication process to access stored data. C) Takano does not teach or suggest information can be transmitted to an external device and can be printed .

In response to A) Takano discloses an ID for retrieving a group of digital image data and is composed of numerals , characters of an alphabet and special character see paragraph 0065.

In response to B, Takano discloses a customer inputs an ID number where it is transmitted to a server to gain access to a digital image, and according to Webster's dictionary a password is something that enables one to pass or gain admission and in

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Takano's invention an ID is used to retrieve the corresponding digital image from the transmitted ID number see paragraph 0091.

In response to C, Takano discloses the digital image can be transmitted through electronic communication network and can be accessed via home, office a minilab shop, etc. Furthermore the external device could be one of the plurality of external devices such as a printer, image server, etc. therefore Takano still teaches that information can be transmitted to an external device and can be printed.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sargon N. Nano whose telephone number is (571) 272-4007. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 hour.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sargon Nano

April 10, 2006

Dalen Nano
PATENT EXAMINER
04/15/06